

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/874,483

Examiner

Vanel Frenel

Applicant(s)

RENWICK ET AL.

Art Unit

3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/25/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-32.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☒ Other The drawings submitted
6/5/2001 are approved.

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Application

1. This communication is in response to the RCE filed on 6/25/07. Claims 33-42 have been cancelled. Claims 1-32 are pending.
2. The drawings submitted 6/5/01 are approved.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-32 are allowed. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

Independent claim 1 is directed to "selecting a repair facility, with the repair facility selected by the insurance provider without input from the claimant; repairing the damaged claimant vehicle at the repair facility; returning the repaired claimant vehicle to the insurer facility without input from the claimant; and returning the repaired claimant vehicle to the claimant".

The closest prior art of record, Freedman et al.(2002/0002475) discloses automated insurance system and method.

Hubbard et al. (2002/0099575) discloses system and method for managing rentals from a rental service provider.

However, none of the prior art cited above fairly discloses/suggests "selecting a repair facility, with the repair facility selected by the insurance provider without input from the claimant; repairing the damaged claimant vehicle at the repair facility; returning

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the repaired claimant vehicle to the insurer facility without input from the claimant; and returning the repaired claimant vehicle to the claimant”.

Independent claim 15 is directed to “selecting a repair facility, with the repair facility selected by the representative of the insurance provider at the insurer facility without input from the claimant; repairing the damaged claimant vehicle at the repair facility; returning the claimant vehicle to the insurer facility without input from the claimant; and returning the repaired claimant vehicle to the claimant”.

However, none of the prior art cited above fairly discloses/suggests “selecting a repair facility, with the repair facility selected by the representative of the insurance provider at the insurer facility without input from the claimant; repairing the damaged claimant vehicle at the repair facility; returning the claimant vehicle to the insurer facility without input from the claimant; and returning the repaired claimant vehicle to the claimant”.

Independent claim 26 is directed to “electronically posting images of the damaged claimant vehicle and description of the vehicle repairs required and soliciting repair bids from repair facilities where the posting is performed by the insurance provider; selecting a repair facility, with the repair facility selected by the insurance provider without input from the claimant; repairing the damaged claimant vehicle at repair facility; returning the repaired claimant vehicle to the insurer facility without input from the claimant; evaluating repair quality of the claimant vehicle at the insurer facility; and returning the repaired claimant vehicle to the claimant at the insurer facility”.

However, none of the prior art cited above fairly discloses/suggests “electronically posting images of the damaged claimant vehicle and description of the vehicle repairs required and soliciting repair bids from repair facilities where the posting is performed by the insurance provider; selecting a repair facility, with the repair facility selected by the insurance provider without input from the claimant; repairing the damaged claimant vehicle at repair facility; returning the repaired claimant vehicle to the insurer facility without input from the claimant; evaluating repair quality of the claimant vehicle at the insurer facility; and returning the repaired claimant vehicle to the claimant at the insurer facility”.

Independent claim 32 is directed “selecting a repair facility, with the repair facility selected by the coordination entity without input from the customer; repairing the damaged customer vehicle at the repair facility; returning the repaired customer vehicle to the coordination facility without input from the customer; returning the repaired customer vehicle to the customer at the coordination facility; and returning the rental vehicle by the customer at the customer at the customer at the coordination facility.

However, none of the prior art cited above fairly discloses/suggests “selecting a repair facility, with the repair facility selected by the coordination entity without input from the customer; repairing the damaged customer vehicle at the repair facility; returning the repaired customer vehicle to the coordination facility without input from the customer; returning the repaired customer vehicle to the customer at the coordination facility; and returning the rental vehicle by the customer at the customer at the customer at the coordination facility”.

Claims 2-14, 16-25, 27-31 incorporate the features of claims 1, 15, 26 and 32 through their dependencies, and are also allowed for the same reasons given above.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Kent E. Baldauf on 8/30/07. During the interview Attorney agreed to cancel claims 33-42 so that the case will be allowed. No further questions were discussed and no further amendments were entered.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vanel Frenel whose telephone number is 571-272-6769. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30am-5:00pm.

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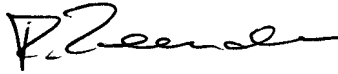
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zeender Ryan Florian can be reached on 571-272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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September 1, 2007

 9/4/07
F. RYAN ZEENDER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER